

Multi-Agency Craft Conference Safety Requirements for In-Water Boat Demonstrations

Personal Safety

It is the responsibility of each vendor to ensure the safety of their passengers during demonstrations. The following minimum requirements are recommended to ensure safe operation:

- a. Life Jackets shall be worn by everyone while participating in boat demonstrations.
- b. Only persons 16 years and older are allowed on boat rides.
- c. Sandals and high-heels are prohibited during activities on and around the quay wall.
- d. No one is allowed on the quay wall without a MACC badge.
- e. No one is allowed to participate in MACC boat demonstrations without a MACC badge.

Craft Systems Safety

It is the responsibility of each vendor to ensure the safety of their boat prior to demonstrations for MACC attendees. The following minimum system checks are recommended to ensure safe operation:

- a. Check all steering system components for unusual wear, loose components, leaking hydraulic lines, or other faults that could affect proper operation.
- b. Check the fuel system for loose components or leaks.
- c. Ensure that all Coast Guard required safety equipment is onboard.
- d. Check railings and lifelines for loose or deteriorated components.
- e. Check for any loose equipment or lines that could cause a tripping hazard.

Craft Operators

It is the responsibility of each vendor to ensure that the operator(s) of demonstration craft have the requisite experience, skills and familiarity with operation of the specific craft being demonstrated. Specific craft familiarity shall be sufficient to avoid any known handling anomalies that increase the risk of injury to passengers.

Communications

Each craft being demonstrated shall have installed, or carry onboard, a marine band VHF radio capable of accessing the Little Creek Port Operation Control Tower and USCG emergency frequencies. Each craft operator shall obtain clearance from Little Creek Control prior to leaving or entering the Little Creek controlled harbor area. All operators are requested to report any disabled craft or other safety concerns to the MACC operations coordinator for resolution. The MACC operations coordinator will monitor channel _____ **(to be provided during the Security Briefing.)**

Experimental Craft

Craft demonstrated to the MACC attendees are generally proven designs that have been previously offered to the public for sale. However, the MACC strives to provide a forum for exploration and discussion of leading edge technologies and, therefore, encourages demonstration of developmental and experimental craft. Developmental and experimental craft are defined as those not previously offered to the public for sale. Officials of the MACC will be

the final arbiters of whether a craft is considered developmental or experimental. Demonstrations of developmental or experimental craft with MACC attendees onboard will be allowed at the discretion of MACC Officials based on an inspection of the craft and discussions with the craft's builders/developers. The MACC reserves the right to limit operating parameters for developmental or experimental craft during demonstrations carrying attendees or to disallow such demonstrations.

Operation of Demonstration Craft

Operators of demonstration craft shall obey all speed and wake restrictions in force at Little Creek Harbor as well as all regulatory rules of the road. Special care shall be taken when approaching or leaving the demonstration pier area due to the locally heavy traffic.

Due to the range of attendees at the MACC it cannot be assumed that the demonstration passengers are either familiar with boat operations or physically able to tolerate the rigors of full tactical or other extreme maneuvers. Speed and maneuvering shall be tailored to the sea conditions and passengers onboard to avoid exposing them to undue forces and the subsequent risk of injury.

Prior to departure boat operators shall provide any boat specific safety instructions and encourage all passengers to wear a personal flotation device. Operators shall advise passengers of a means of indicating distress if their tolerance for the forces experienced is exceeded. Boat operators shall immediately modify speed, heading, or maneuvering techniques to reduce the forces being experienced if a passenger indicates they are in distress.

Tactical maneuvers such as crash stops, full helm turns at speed, bucket turns and other maneuvers that expose passengers to forces and accelerations that cannot be tolerated by the average civilian shall not be undertaken. An exemption from this prohibition may be obtained from the MACC Waterfront Coordinator provided the intended passengers are identified to the MACC Waterfront Coordinator and he or she determines that the passengers have sufficient experience in such maneuvers and are physically able to tolerate the forces generated. Tactical demonstrations to a specialized group shall be preceded by a safety brief describing what will be demonstrated and what actions are required on the part of the passengers to minimize the risk of injury. A verbal warning or prearranged visual signal shall precede each maneuver to allow passengers to prepare themselves. The maneuver shall not commence until either the boat operator, or a designated safety observer, has visually verified that the warning has been received by ensuring that all passengers are in their places and have made the required preparations for the maneuver.